

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 4638

DEPT FOR A/O AND WHITE HOUSE

EUR FOR HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: ADS. DECLAS 12/31/78

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT MEETING; PRESIDENTIAL BILATERAL WITH
EC OFFICIALS ORTOLI AND SOAMES

REFS: STATE 115961 EC BRUSSELS 4478

1. USEC HERewith SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTED TALKING
POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL MEETING WITH EC
COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI AND VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES,
MAY 30, AT 6:00-6:30 P.M.

2. BEGIN TALKING POINTS

I. POINTS THE PRESIDENT MAY WISH TO RAISE:
EUROPEAN UNITY--SINCE THIS WILL BE PRESIDENT FORD'S
FIRST VISIT TO EUROPE AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND HIS
INITIAL CONTACT WITH EC OFFICIALS, WE FEEL IT IS
IMPORTANT FOR HIM TO ADDRESS THE SUBJECT OF
EUROPEAN UNITY. HE MAY THEREFORE WISH TO:
--REAFFIRM THE CONTINUITY OF OUR SUPPORT FOR
THE GOAL OF EUROPEAN INTERGRATION WITHIN
THE CONTEXT OF ATLANTIC COOPERATION.

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--SAY THAT WE SEE NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN

EUROPEAN INTERGRATION AND CLOSE TIES WITH THE US, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT US TODAY HAVE MORE THAN EVER EMPHASIZED THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF WESTERN SOCIETY.
--EMPHASIZE OUR DESIRE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE EC NIN IN A CONSTRUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP FOR SOLVING WORLD PROBLEMS AS WELL AS ANY DIRECT ISSUES IN OUR US-EC BILATERAL RELATIONS.

II. POINTS ORTOLI AND SOAMES MAY RAISE:

A. MORE FREQUENT CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND US ON ECONOMIC POLICY ISSUES-- ORTOLI IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR AN EARLY ECONOMIC UPTURN IN EUROPE AND FEARS THAT IF THE DOWN-TREND PERSISTS TOO LONG, PROBLEMS OF "SOCIAL UNREST" COULD ARISE. FOR THE LONGER TERM, HE IS AFRAID THAT IF WE DO NOT FIND A WAY TO DEAL WITH THE INSTABILITY IN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, OUR PRESENT LIBERAL SYSTEM WITH ITS FREE FLOW OF GOODS AND INVESTMENT MAY NOT BE SUSTAINABLE.

ORTOLI MAY THEREFORE POINT OUT THAT:

--A CRITICAL PROBLEM FACING THE WESTERN WORLD IS HOW TO ACHIEVE A BETTER COORDINATION OF ECONOMIC POLICY.

-- THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WILL NEED TO WORK TOGETHER MORE CLOSELY TO ACHIEVE A "COMMON APPRECIATION" OF COMMON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND INTERESTS, INCLUDING THE "ACCEPTANCE OF DISCIPLINES." THIS SHOULD BE SOUGHT, NOT IN ANY NEW INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, BUT IN SOME "LOOSER" FORM OF COORDINATION.

IN RESPONSE, THE PRESIDENT MIGHT SAY THAT:

--WE AGREE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BETTER COORDINATION OF ECONOMIC POLICY.

--WE INTEND TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE EC ON SUCH MAJOR PROBLEMS AS FOOD, RAW MATERIALS, ENERGY, AND LIBERALIZATION

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OF TRADE AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE WORLD TRADING SYSTEM IN THE MTN.

B. THE EC ROLE IN "PROBLEM AREAS"-- ORTOLI MAY ASK HOW WE FEEL ABOUT THE EC ROLE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN (GREECE, TURKEY, PORTUGAL) AND SOUTHEAST ASIA-- AREAS WHERE THE US IS OR HAS BEEN HEAVILY ENGAGED. HE IS LIKELY TO:

--EXPRESS THE VIEW THAT THE EC'S TRADE

AGREEMENTS AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION
ARRANGEMENTS WITH MOST MEDITERRANEAN
COUNTRIES PROMOTE STABILITY AND CLOSER LINKS WITH
WESTERN EUROPE, THUS SERVING THE COMMON WESTERN SECURITY
INTEREST.

--POINT OUT THAT IN REFERRING TO THE
MEDITERRANEAN, HE IS NOT REPEAT NOT
REFERRING TO MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS
WHERE THE EC RECOGNIZES THAT THE US HAS
THE PREEMINENT ROLE.

--ASK WHETHER WE FEEL THERE ARE ANY
POSITIVE STEPS THE COMMUNITY CAN NOW TAKE
IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR MEDITERRANEAN
POLICY.

IN RESPONSE THE PRESIDENT MIGHT:

--EMPHASIZE OUR CONTINUING CONCERN ABOUT THE
SITUATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

--SAY WE WELCOME CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIONS BY
THE COMMUNITY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AIMED
AT MEETING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS
OF THESE COUNTRIES AND STRENGTHENING THEIR
TIES AND SENSE OF POLITICAL IDENTITY WITH
WESTERN EUROPE.

--STRESS THAT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN
EVER FOR THE US AND THE EC TO INTENSIFY
OUR CONSULTATION ON THESE MATTERS.

--POINT OUT, WITH REGARD TO SOUTHEAST
ASIA, THAT

A) THE SITUATION THERE IS OBVIOUSLY
ONE OF SWIFT TRANSITION; AND

B) FOR THE MOMENT WE FEEL THAT THE
EC AND ITS MEMBER STATES CAN PLAY AN
IMPORTANT HUMANITARIAN ROLE BY DOING
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THEIR UTMOST TO ASSIST VIETNAMESE
REFUGEES. END TALKING POINTS

3. USEC COMMENT: THE FOREGOING REPRESENTS OUR
PRESENT UNDERSTANDING OF THE POINTS ORTOLI AND SOAMES
PLAN TO MAKE, ALTHOUGH WE MAY HAVE SOME
FURTHER WORD EARLY NEXT WEEK. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT AS
OF NOW THEY DO NOT INTEND TO RAISE ANY SPECIFIC
BILATERAL ASPECTS OF US/EC RELATIONS, SUCH AS
COUNTERVAILING DUTIES.
GREENWALD

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